

## ***BARRINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY***

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*www.barringtonlibrary.org*



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### **Report to the Town Council**

*Submitted by Deborah Barchi*

We've had some excellent "press" lately, including quite a lengthy article in the Barrington Times about our movie programs here at the library. Recently the Friends of the Library agreed to fund several movie series that will take place later in the year. Recently we have featured a series of classic French films as well as an all afternoon showing of the melodious South Pacific. Coming up will be a series on the films of Alec Guinness and a screening from an independent filmmaker. In fact we are gaining a reputation as a reliable venue for older, independent, and foreign film screenings and building an audience that appreciates being able to see these rarely shown films, in a comfortable, state of the art small theater, and all for free! In addition, because we own these films or others by the same or similar artists, our library users can borrow the films and enjoy them at home. We need to thank our community services librarian Wil Gregersen who has worked so hard to create and promote our exceptional film series lineup, as well as Doug Swiszczy who has built his own extensive "fan base" of movie lovers here in Barrington for the film series he hosts.

With only a few months left to this fiscal year, the statistics we keep for such performance measures as circulation, reference questions, computer use, and programs all seem to point to another record breaking year for the library. I am always especially pleased when I see our book circulation figures rising steadily. Despite the fact that there are often alarmist articles appearing in the press about the decline of reading by adults and children, these behavior patterns don't seem to have affected the town of Barrington! We continue to have the highest per capita borrowing of books in Rhode Island (with the exception of Block Island whose tiny population skews any meaningful comparisons) for both children and adults, and those numbers continue to rise. We promote reading every day, through our book purchases, book displays and book themed programs. And if by chance we don't own a book, we can rapidly request and receive it from another library, either in Rhode Island, or if necessary, even from out of state. It doesn't make a lot of sense to keep buying books when the library buys them for you; and in this time of continuing economic stress, more and more folks in town seem to understand the value of their library.